

## **The Birthkeeper of Bethlehem: A Midwife's Tale by Bridget Supple**

A peaceful, lyrical book! *The Birthkeeper of Bethlehem: A Midwife's Tale* by Bridget Supple receives overwhelmingly positive reviews from our book club members and is praised for its sensitive, intimate retelling of the Nativity through the eyes of Jesus' midwife.

The Birthkeeper of Bethlehem is a beautiful read that reclaims the intimacy of Christ's birth to a young mother in a town far away from where she lives. With immense sensitivity, it describes the birth of Jesus Christ through the eyes of a midwife-a birthkeeper. Births are always miraculous, only this one is a little more so than usual. There's a new star in the sky. And there are strangers with strange visions. But the mother and baby are the work of God and those mysterious things must be puzzled over later.

Bridget Supple weaves her love of Christ with her love of midwifery and uses her knowledge of birth to retell the familiar Christmas story in cultural context. Bridget's wonderful storytelling skills offer a highly credible retelling from a fictional midwife's perspective, transporting the reader back in time to witness the events as they unfold.

A short but beautiful work of fiction which reads more like a non-fiction. Bridget Supple did due diligence in gaining a historical Jewish perspective on the topics of birth and invoked the historical and cultural setting, colours and sounds and rhythms of daily life in Bethlehem two thousand years ago which I really enjoyed. This novel emphasises the sacredness of birth and how women are cared for during childbirth and postpartum in ancient times, beautifully illustrating the supportive relationships of devotion and respect between them and the community.

I cried at the ending. I absolutely loved this book!

It moved me in the core of my being, portraying the humanity of Jesus as a baby born and made me ponder things about Jesus' birth and life that I never had before.

Respectively submitted by  
Wendy Dickin